

Services Division

Committee on European Satellites

(EuSat Committee Meeting - 18th Meeting - 1330 11 July 1956)

Present:

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The topic for discussion in the meeting was "Electric Power in the European Satellites" with [REDACTED] M/EP, as speaker. He began with a brief explanation of the unique character of the industry's product and the unusual feature of the industry that changes in consumer demand result in instantaneous changes in production of power. Therefore, ascertaining the ability to meet peak loads with adequate local generating capacity and, if necessary, power supplements from outside the local area, is a particularly difficult problem for managers of the industry.

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Since World War II, said [REDACTED], the European Satellites have been hard pressed to satisfy the rapidly growing demand for the product. Electric power is one industry in the area which apparently has not been called upon to supply shipments to the USSR. Output in recent years has risen at an annual rate of about 11 percent and it is believed that this rapid growth rate may continue during the next few years.

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[REDACTED] stated that within each of the satellites some development of transmission lines has occurred but that these systems could not be characterized as a "network" or "grid". Greater advances in this direction have, of course, been made in East Germany and other northern satellites than in Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria. Interconnection of national power transmission systems has also taken place to a limited extent and substantial exports of power from East Germany to Czechoslovakia and from the latter to Hungary apparently are contemplated.

Energy sources on which the electric power industry in the satellites is based consist very largely of coal. In contrast to neighboring Austria, the satellites are rather poorly endowed with hydroelectric resources. The largest hydroelectric potential in the area is in Rumania and there has been considerable discussion concerning a major hydroelectric installation at the Iron Gates on the Danube. In any event, the satellite electric power industry has been and undoubtedly will continue to rely heavily on thermal plants using coal for fuel.

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[REDACTED] M/S, will be the speaker on 18 July when the topic "The Coal Mining Industry in the European Satellites" will be the subject under discussion. Members are urged to assemble promptly on Wednesday at 1330 room 2125 M.

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Chairman

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